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Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi* and Papyrus Canary *Serinus koliensis*: two additions to the Tanzania list

During atlas fieldwork in Kagera Region, northwest Tanzania, two species were found that had not previously been identified in the country.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

A bird was resident around our camp in Minziro Forest Reserve (1°07'S, 31°30'E) from 16 to 23 November 1993. Its call was initially noticed by Bro A. Grawehr who likened it to that of the Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* with which he is familiar in southern Tanzania. It became a familiar call around the camp, especially in the early mornings and late afternoons. The bird was seen several times but we were aware of the difficulties in separating this species from the Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* in the field. Several of the party were familiar with the Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *C. montanus* in the field and in the hand.

On 21 November the bird was finally caught in a mist net placed deliberately close to the forest edge where it had been seen. On 26 and 27 November further birds were caught at Kikuru Forest Reserve some 14 km east of Minziro. The relevant mensural data (g and mm) are as follows:

<u>Bird No.</u>	<u>mass</u>	<u>wing</u>	<u>bill</u>	<u>tarsus</u>	<u>tail</u>
1	51.6	146	24.5	20.2	205
2	59	150	24.2	20.4	200
3	47	140	23.8	–	200

The species is known from adjacent forest areas in Uganda. These records are not, therefore, significant extensions of range.

Papyrus Canary *Serinus koliensis*

Two birds were mist-netted along the edge of a papyrus swamp near Katera village (1°20'S, 30°40'E) on 1 December 1993. The site was in the vicinity of Kagera Swamp and only 2 km from the Rwandan border. The species is known from the Kagera Swamp in Rwanda and is not, therefore, a significant extension of range.

Full details have been submitted to the East African Rarities Committee, which has accepted both records.

We wish to thank Peter Robinson for checking the skins of both species in the British Museum.

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A roost of Swallow-tailed Kites *Chelictinia riocourii* and Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni* near Naro Moru, Kenya

The D448 road which leads from Naro Moru on the western slopes of Mt Kenya to join the B5 Nyeri to Nyahururu road, and which borders the southern edge of Solio Game Park, is excellent for birds of prey at the appropriate season, particularly harriers *Circus* spp., and Lesser and White-eyed Kestrels *Falco naumanni* and *F. rupicoloides*.

During the late afternoon of 9 March 1993, we were driving slowly along this road watching several Lesser Kestrels hunting and sitting on fences, when a flock of the same species appeared alongside the vehicle. We disembarked to count them (40 birds) and as we watched noticed several white birds, very high in the sky to the north, 'flashing' against a large black thundercloud. At first we thought they might be White-winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* but as they drifted nearer and started to descend, it became obvious that they were Swallow-tailed Kites *Chelictinia riocourii*. The straggling line of birds continued towards us and began to drop into a clump of large trees some 300 m south of the road. To our amazement, these trees were already full of Lesser Kestrels and many Swallow-tailed Kites. A small flat-topped acacia some little way beyond the large trees was covered with kites and the whole sloping top appeared white. This was presumably a pre-roosting place as the kites eventually left to join the others in the large trees. All the birds would occasionally take flight and mill about and it was during this activity that we were able to count and estimate their numbers as they re-settled. We were satisfied that at least 250 Swallow-tailed Kites and 600 Lesser Kestrels were present.

The following day, in an attempt to be at the site before the birds arrived so that we could count them in, we arrived at 16:30 to find the small acacia already "white" with kites and others, together with Lesser Kestrels, in the larger trees. The kestrels were approaching from the north and west and between 18:15 and 19:05 we counted 400 as they crossed the road to join the roost, including a concentrated 90 birds which arrived between 18:55 and 19:00. We managed to count 148 kites as they milled around the trees and estimated that at least 250 were again present, with 600 Lesser Kestrels and three Black-shouldered Kites *E. caeruleus*. We were not able to count any birds which may have entered the roost from the south. Also in the area on 10 March were seven Eurasian Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, three Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* and one White-eyed Kestrel.